Purchase of land by Maruti Udyog Limited for its housing complex

584. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a CBI investigation was made into the purchase of 100 acres of land by Maruti Udyog Limited in Haryana for building its housing complex in violation of the guidelines laid down by Government in this regard;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry ; and

(c) what are the details of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Government's clearance to Vijayawada Thermal Power Station Stage-III

585. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government for the early clearance of Vijayawada Thermal Power Station Stage-III (500 MW) ; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme could be considered for investment approval only after the necessary inputs, including coal supply, and the requisite clearances—including that from the environmental angle—are available.

Coal shortage in South India

586. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of coal shortage in South India still remains since the production is not sufficient to meet the demand, apart from other factors; and

(b) if so, what are the other factors and what measures have been taken by Government to meet the demand for coal for the thermal power projects in the South and especially of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Coal production in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has been increasing over the years. Yet, the production is not adequate to meet the demand for coal from the consumers in the South in full.

With a view to enabling the company (SCCL) to meet the growing coal demand in the South, production of coal is being stepped up by identifying and opening new coal projects. The gap between the demand an production is being met by supplying coal to consumers in Southern India, including some thermal power stations in Andhra Pradesh, from Coal India sources.

Exploitation of coal resources

587. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States where coal is available;

(b) what is the approximate quantum of coal deposit located in these States;

(c) what are the State-wise details thereof; and